

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 SWF-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7898

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 098

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NOFORN

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR JURICH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT

SUBJ: TEXTILES: DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMISSION

REF: A) STATE 256144

B) GENEVA 6438

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 26, JURICH AND PHELAN CONDUCTED DISCUSSIONS WITH SOAMES AND SENIOR EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM THE EC QUESTION TO THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF COMPREHENSIVE TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MULTI-FIBER ARRANGEMENT. SOAMES AND THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED SAID THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE DIFFICULTIES COMPATIBLE WITH THE STRONG US POSITION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THEY SEE THE PROBLEM NOT AS A SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DISPUTE BUT AS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF TACTICS IN THEIR HANDLING OF MEMBER STATES. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO TREAT THIS MESSAGE AS NOFORN. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON NOVEMBER 26, MINISTER JURICH, PHELAN, US REPRESENTATIVE ON THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY, AND USEC OFFICERS, DISCUSSED WITH AN EC COMMISSION GROUP THE BACKGROUND TO AND TACTICS FOR HANDLING, AT THE DECEMBER 4 TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY MEETING, THE COMMUNITY'S QUESTION ABOUT THE COMPATIBILITY OF COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENTS WITH ARTICLE 4 OF THE ARRANGEMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AT A WORKING LUNCHEON AND SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH HANNAY, CASPARI, MEYNELL AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THERE WAS A SEPARATE MEETING WITH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES AND THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS.

3. JURICH POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE CLEAR DURING THE WHOLE COURSE OF THE MFA NEGOTIATIONS ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD PERMIT COMPREHENSIVE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SIGNATORY STATES AND THAT THIS WAS AND IS A SINE QUA NON FOR US PARTICIPATION IN THE ARRANGEMENT. HE MADE CLEAR THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THE US WILL COMPROMISE ON THIS FUNDAMENTAL POINT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE DESIROUS OF SETTLING THE PRESENTATIONAL PROBLEM ON A FRIENDLY BASIS IF THIS COULD BE DDONE.

4. SOAMES AND THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS INVOLVED STATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NO DESIRE TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US IN THE QUESTIONS WHICH IT HAS RAISED AT THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY BUT THAT THERE IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR THE COMMISSION STEMMING FROM THE POSITION OF SOME OF THE MEMBER STATES. SOAMES THOUGHT THE PROBLEM SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RESOLUTION AMICABLY, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT AS QUICKLY AS THE US WOULD WISH. OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE TACTICS OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM WOULD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT IF THE MEMBER STATES LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE AND THAT, AS WE KNEW, SUSPICIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN AROUSED.

5. AT THE END OF A LENGTHY SESSION, MEYNELL SAID HE BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GET THE MATTER ON THE TRACKS AT THE DECEMBER 4 TSB MEETING IF THE US WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT POINTING OUT ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARRANGEMENT AND EXPLAINING THE FACT THAT THE US BILATERALS SO FAR SIGNED, EVEN THOUGH COMPREHENSIVE, WERE QUITE LIBERAL. MEYNELL THOUGHT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TACTICALLY SURER NOT TO TRY TO END THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT MEETING; BUT HE WAS WILLING TO TRY IF THE US THOUGHT THIS NECESSARY. WITH SOAMES' ASSENT, MEYNELL STIPULATED THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE RESULTS SINCE SO MUCH DEPENDS ON MEMBER STATE REACTIONS BUT HE GAVE ASSURANCES OF "BEST EFFORTS."

6. JURICH AND PHELAN EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMUNITY DID NOT REACH AN EARLY ACCORD ON THE

QUESTION AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BODY WERE FORCED TO TAKE SIDES, THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT. THEY ALSO SAID THAT IF THE ISSUE COULD BE TACKLED AND SETTLED NOW IN CONNECTION WITH THE INDIA AGREEMENT, IT SHOULD NOT ARISE AGAIN IN DISCUSSION OF SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS.

7. JURICH SAID THAT WE WOULD INFORMALLY GIVE THE COMMISSION AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE US STATEMENT TO THE TSB IN THE HOPE THIS WOULD HELP MEYNELL WORK OUT HIS TACTICAL PROBLEM. MEYNELL SAID THAT IF HE COULD HAVE A STATEMENT WELL BEFORE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, HE WOULD INFORM US, AFTER A MEETING OF THE MEMBER STATES, HOW FAR HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GO AT THE DECEMBER 4 MEETING.

8. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMMISSION IS PLEASED WITH THE JURICH VISIT. THE PRESENTATION BY HIM AND PHELAN HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN MAKING THE US POSITION CLEAR AND CONVINCING TO THE COMMISSION AND IN POINTING THE WAY OUT OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. THIS MESSAGE WAS PREPARED AFTER JURICH'S DEPARTURE, BUT IT WAS CLEARED WITH PHELAN.MYERSON

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